

GA

THE GEORGE-ANNE



PHOTO COURTESY OF JEREMY YULL

BEHIND THE SCENES OF TURNT MEDIA

SEE PAGE 6

GSU FOOTBALL GETS KEY TRANSFER FROM UAB

SEE PAGE 10

DO MORE, GO GREEK, ACHIEVE HIGHER GPA?

ALL GREEK AVERAGE

2.94

NON GREEK AVERAGE

2.76

SEE PAGE 3

GREAT MINDS, READ ON



A DISCUSSION OF HOW 'UNSUITABLE BOOKS' AFFECT THE YOUTH

SEE PAGE 4

MAYA GLEASON THE GEORGE-ANNE

Who's your *Sugar daddy?*

FIND OUT ON PAGE 9



Knight Class

Senior nominated for CLASS award

Araya Jackson
The George-Anne staff

Georgia Southern University senior guard Anna Claire Knight was recently listed as a candidate for the women's collegiate basketball 2014-15 Senior CLASS (Celebrating Loyalty and Achievement for Staying in School) Award.

This award exemplifies the achievement of 30 NCAA women players, both on and off the court. In order to qualify, an athlete must be classified as a Division 1 senior

player and display outstanding performance in four areas of excellence: community, classroom, character and competition.

Knight holds a 3.82 GPA in sports management, was a three-time member of the Southern Conference Academic Honor Roll and is the only woman selected from the Sun Belt Conference for this award.

The Senior CLASS Award winners will be announced during the 2015 NCAA Men's Final Four and NCAA Women's Final Four.

AppUpdate

Caitlyn Oliver
The George-Anne staff



A new app, Strings, made its debut out in the iOS community this month. Strings allows users to un-send texts. Both parties have to have the app installed in order to take back texts. In other words, drunk-texting or yelling in all caps will not follow this take-backsies rule if it's sent through the regular texting process and the other person don't have the app. Shared content must be approved and screenshots are detected. Users that take more than three screenshots are banned. Strings works with not only texts, but also emails, pictures and videos.

WEATHER BAR

Wednesday



High: 52°
Low: 31°

Thursday



High: 61°
Low: 48°

Friday



High: 57°
Low: 32°

WEATHER CATS



"I CAN FEEL THE WIND IN MY WHISKERS!"

SPORTS SHORTS

Jozsef Papp
The George-Anne staff

- Seven Eagles of the Georgia Southern Track and Field team posted top-10 finishes at the Bob Pollock Invitational at Clemson University over the weekend.

- The Men's Basketball team regained first place with a 57-53 win over the University of

Louisiana Monroe Warhawks on Saturday night. The Eagles will face App. State on Thursday at Hanner Field House.

- The Women's Basketball team lost to University of Louisiana Monroe 72-66 in overtime over the weekend.

- The Women's Tennis Team

defeated the visiting Alabama State Hornets to a 6-1 decision on Sunday.

- The Men's tennis team bounced back from their loss against Kennesaw State on Saturday and defeated the Alabama State Hornets 6-1.

Eagles take on the Polar Plunge

Caitlyn Oliver
The George-Anne staff

Georgia Southern University students braved the outdoor pool waters at the Recreation Activity Center (RAC) yesterday, some even went in twice.

Last night was the third annual Polar Plunge at the RAC and students took a dive into the pool with eagerness.

What was your first thought

before jumping in?

"Why am I doing this?" -Keishla Toro, freshman biology major
"This is going to be cold. I can't believe I'm doing this again."

-Amanda Korponay, senior exercise science major

"It's not as cold as jumping in the Southern Ocean."

-Amanda Reynolds, graduate biology major

REFLECTORGSU.COM

What Does "Chill" Really Mean?

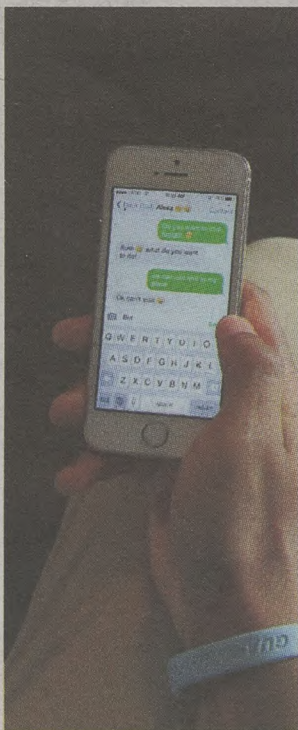
Everyone has that awkward moment when a text comes through their phone and it reads "Do you want to come chill?" This is one of the most confusing, complicated text you will receive. What does "chill" really mean? Are you guys just going to hang out or are they expecting more.

Chill can mean different things depending on who the people are. Do they text you on the regular basis or only after hours? Someone that texts you on the regular basis is making an effort to get to know you. You have piqued their curiosity and "Do you want to chill?" most likely means they actually want to hang out and get to know you better.

If he/she only texts you after hours, usually after 10 p.m. this could mean that they are looking for more than just casual talking.

"If he hit you up randomly at night and you know you haven't talked to him in a long time, he ain't just trying to chill," said Chelsea Hopper, a nursing major.

Come "chill" with us and see the full story on ReflectorGSU.com



Puzzles are back!

		3		1	8	6		
7		8			2			1
	1						2	
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		3			7		

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR LEASE 417 S Main Street 6 bedroom house AVAILABLE NOW or AUGUST also 4 bedroom at GSU entrance - Marvin Avenue AVAILABLE AUGUST (912) 682-7468

Health & Fitness

Healthy Eating on a College Budget

Just because we're in college doesn't mean we only have to live on ramen. We have four recipes to try without breaking the bank.

Life & Style

Surviving in a World of Tweets, Status Updates, and Never-Ending Posts

Check out one millennial's thoughts on not using social media.

The All Season Wardrobe

In Statesboro it can be winter in the morning and summer in the afternoon. Check out our tips to creating the perfect wardrobe for all seasons.

Cuisine & Culture

Add Culture to Your Evening

Bring the world to your doorstep (and your dinner table) the next time you have friends over.

GREEK LIFE ESTABLISHES NEW GPA REGULATIONS

BY OZZIE BUNBURY
The George-Anne staff

Within the last academic year, Greek Life at Southern has made great progress to unify the requirements of all fraternity's and sorority's GPAs, an effort led by the Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life, Francisco M. Lugo.

While Greek presence on campus has been continuing to rise with no signs of slowing down, (going from 11% to almost 14% of the undergrad population*), the overall academic standards of the organizations has been called into question. A member of the National Association of Latino Fraternal Organizations (NALFO) since his college days, Lugo knows the ins and outs of the system and only wants to see sustainable results from the community.

"The main goal is to figure out how we hold each other accountable and how we hold our chapters accountable...At the end of the day, we want our students to be successful, so we asked ourselves how we could find that common ground of compromise," Lugo said.

Since stepping into office, he has made a conscious effort to bring academic consistency into the community. He and his team implemented a new academic policy revision which began in August of 2014.

They can do a lot of things in the community and can see tangible results, however, that's if the chapter keeps the grades above 2.7.

The old academic policy was very inconsistent, and wasn't the most effective way of bringing long term results. With the adjustments Lugo made to the academic policy, stability seems much more attainable.

What it was in the past is much different from what it is now. These policies have been put in place in order to, not only prevent poor academic performance, but in the event that it does happen, work long term to prevent it from happening again. The privileges of Greek Life only come when the members hold up their end of the deal. Lugo said that the policies aren't out to get people, they are there to give an added incentive to stay on the right track.

Here are some of the additions to the new and improved academic policy for fraternities and sororities. Those who fail to have at least a 2.70 grade point average each academic semester will be placed on academic probation with the following sanctions and restrictions:

First Academic Semester Probation

a. Host three (3) academic programs during the semester for the chapter using University academic resources and mandate 60% chapter participation.

b. Chapter president must have monthly Chapter Liaison meetings with Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life staff. "Having a chapter president meet with a liaison, isn't really an advisement meeting, but more of a check-up and letting the chapter know they have support from the University, because at the end of the day they want to see their students do well," Lugo said.

Second Academic Semester Probation

a. Suspension of ALL chapter Social event privileges

b. If the chapter achieves a 2.70 semester grade point average at the end of the semester, the chapter will move back up to First Academic Semester Probation the following semester.

*By placing a level 2 academic probated chapter back up to level 1 instead of removing the chapter completely from the punishment, that is pushing the chapter to maintain their commitment to academics, instead of just letting them off easy.

Third Academic Semester Probation

a. "Suspension of all formal recruitment and/or intake privileges."

Fourth Academic Semester Probation

a. "Revocation of Georgia Southern University recognition of the chapter for two (2) full academic years which includes the chapter losing the ability to utilize University facilities and participate in University events for two (2) full academic years."

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

The George-Anne is the official student newspaper of Georgia Southern University, operated by GSU students using facilities provided by the university. The newspaper is the oldest continuously published newspaper in Bulloch County.

The newspaper is published twice weekly, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, during most of the academic year. Any questions regarding content should be directed to the student editor by phone at 912.478.5246 or at gaeditor@georgiasouthern.edu.

ADVERTISING: The newspaper accepts advertising. Inquiries may be made by calling 912.478.5418 or 912.478.0566. Fax any questions to 912.478.7113 or e-mail ads1@georgiasouthern.edu.

The George-Anne receives additional support, in part, from the Student Activities Budget Committee. For more information, rate cards, or sample publications, contact the advertising manager or student media director. The advertiser is responsible for any errors in advertisements and its liability for adjustments is limited to the amount of space the error occupied in the ad. Further, the newspaper is not responsible for any damages caused due to an ad's omission from a particular edition and its responsibility solely is to reschedule the ad in the next regular edition at the regular advertising rates.

STUDENTS BEWARE: The George-Anne screens all advertisements prior to publication. The newspaper strives to accept ads for legitimate products and services only. Students are urged to exercise caution when replying to ads-- particularly those that require personal information. Students are also urged to report to the newspaper any suspicious offers which they might see in an ad.

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NOTICE: Unauthorized removal of multiple copies from a distribution site constitutes theft under Georgia law, a misdemeanor offense punishable by a fine and/or jail time.

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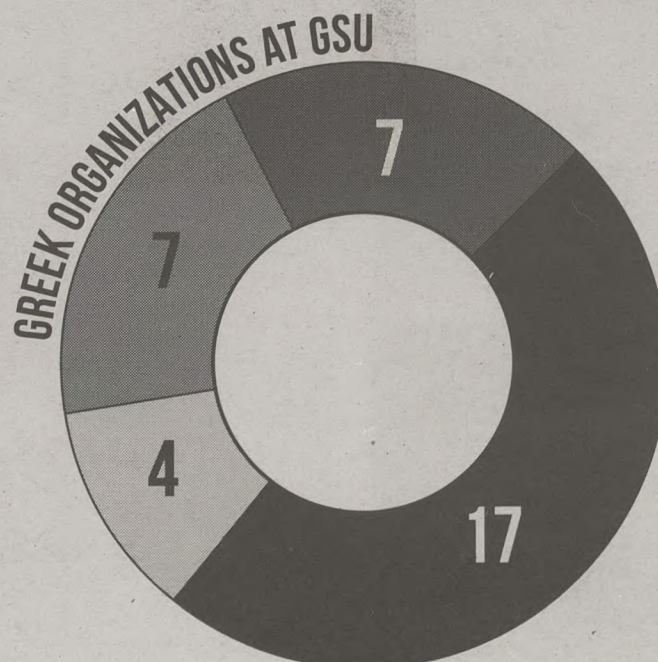
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HISTORICALLY LATINO FRATERNITIES AND
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HISTORICALLY BLACK FRATERNITIES &
SORORITIES

■ PANHELLENIC ASSOCIATION (PHA)-
HISTORICALLY WHITE SORORITIES



PROFESSORS AND FUTURE TEACHERS TACKLE CENSORSHIP

BY NADIA DREID
The George-Anne staff

Dr. Caren Town, English professor, is worried about censorship in the classroom. While college professors experience a large amount of academic freedom, the same cannot always be said for middle and high school teachers who may want to introduce their students to controversial subjects.

Tonight she will address students and faculty on the dangers of censorship in young adult fiction, as part of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences' Great Minds lecture series.

One of the books Town uses as an example in her talk, "The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian" by Sherman Alexie, was the third most challenged book of 2013, according to the American Library Association.

Racism, language, sexual references and portrayal of gay and lesbian characters are some of the most common reasons a book gets challenged or banned, Town said.

"We need not to be afraid of these books. Books are a wonderful way for young people to rehearse what's going to happen to them in life, and if we prevent them from doing that, it's almost like you throw somebody in the pool without teaching them how to swim," Town said.

SWIMMING AND TEACHING

Abran Cruz is a junior English major and is currently enrolled in Town's adolescent literature class. He plans to be a high school literature teacher, and has every intention of teaching what is currently considered controversial subject matter in his classroom.

"Personally, I will fight tooth and nail to teach at least one type of controversial novel that goes against the social grain or rubs the public school system the wrong way," Cruz said. "A lot of the literature that is available can be very insightful and very helpful to adolescents, especially because they deal with topics that they are going to inevitably encounter later in life."

Town said she has hope for the newest generation of teachers, who are often braver and more willing to court controversy than some who came before them. Others would like to tackle similar subject matter in their classrooms, but are worried about the reaction.

To combat this, Town said she tries to arm her students with techniques to help them succeed.

"If you give them strategies for how to fight censorship, then they feel a lot more confident," Town said.

Cruz plans to make sure he does all he can to prepare his students for the real world, and literature is a great tool for doing that, he said.

"In my opinion, the public school system is doing them a disadvantage by shielding them or sheltering them from these types of topics," Cruz said. "By allowing them to view one side of a topic from a selected perspective, they're either intentionally or unintentionally propagating whatever prejudiced mentality is at hand."

WITHOUT A LIFE RAFT

College often provides an opportunity for young adults to expand their horizons, Town said. But if students have not been exposed to controversial ideas and diverse people before then, it can make adjusting difficult.

"My argument is if they've had some exposure to that earlier on, they're going to be better ready to come to school here and better able to fit in with people who are nothing like them," Town said.

Town is working on a research project with several of her colleagues to determine whether reading books about people different from the reader will make a person more empathetic. Currently, the results show that it does.

Town explained that aside from helping young adults understand others, it is important for them to find and read about representations of themselves. This is most important particularly if they belong to a minority group of some sort, whether it be racial, religious, or sexual minority.

"Books are a great, safe way to teach them how to navigate the world without having to experience all the awful things that the characters experience in the book," Town said. "You want to let students practice with life... and you want them to learn that they're not alone."

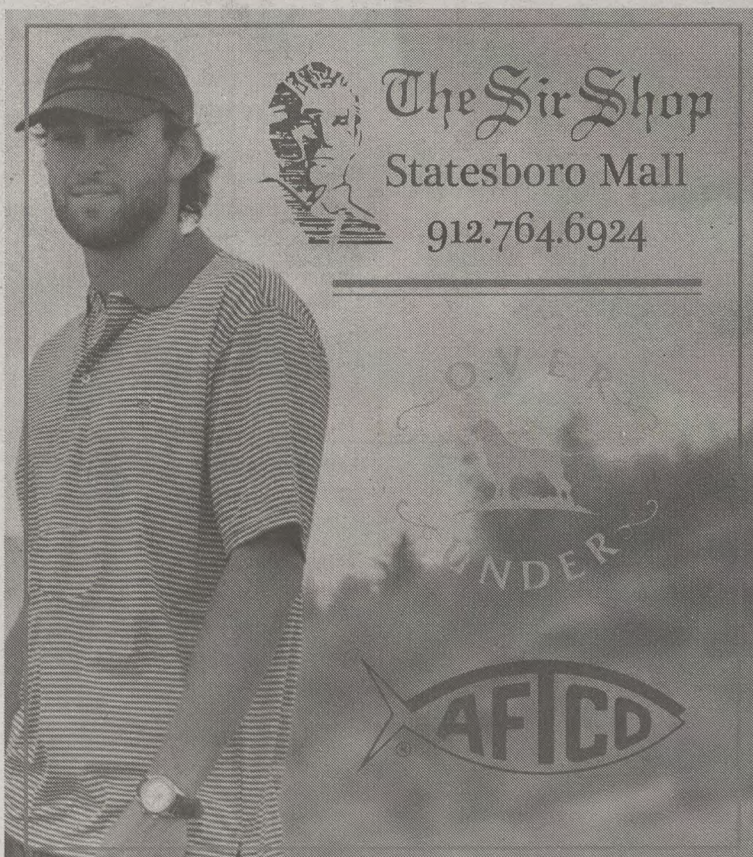
GREAT MINDS: CAREN TOWN

"UNSUITABLE BOOKS:"
CENSORSHIP & YOUNG
ADULT FICTION

Russell Union Room
2084

Tuesday, January 27,
2015

5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.



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TO TEACH THEM HOW TO NAVIGATE
THE WORLD WITHOUT HAVING
TO EXPERIENCE ALL THE AWFUL
THINGS THAT THE CHARACTERS
EXPERIENCE IN THE BOOK.

DR. CAREN TOWN
GSU English Professor

MORE.

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APPLICATION DEADLINE: TUESDAY, JANUARY 27TH

NEW MEMBERS WILL BE POSTED BY THE END OF THE DAY ON FRIDAY, JAN 27TH

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PRODMGR@GEORGIASOUTHERN.EDU CHASE CHALKER, DIGITAL EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
WEBED@GEORGIASOUTHERN.EDU

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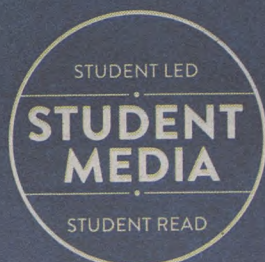
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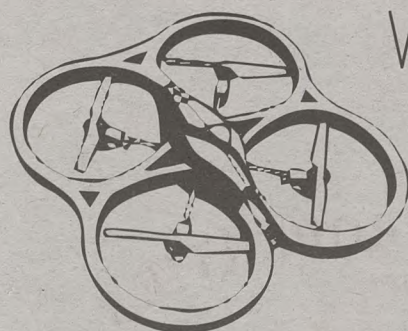
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ALL ACCEPTED APPLICANTS MUST COMPLETE CANDIDATE PROGRAM



JOIN STUDENT MEDIA

BEHIND THE SCREENS



WITH



BY MEG ELWOOD
The George-Anne staff

Well known throughout the city of Statesboro, having more than 200,000 YouTube channel viewers, and being featured videos on sites like Total Frat Move and BroBible, Turnt Media is the latest and greatest videography group of GSU.

Everyone knows who they are and what they do, if you don't know who they are, just think back to the last super extreme party at the bars. Did you see three guys with cameras on them all night long? Whether it be strapped to their head, on a "selfie-stick", or cautiously holding them above hectic crowds all for the sake of making a great video? Yep. That's the guys over at Turnt Media.

Georgia Southern University graduate Bobby Shubert is the mastermind behind Turnt Media. It began as simply an enjoyable hobby which exploded after he uploaded an edited video of a Spring Break trip to Panama City Beach a few years ago.

"It's always been a hobby of mine ever since I can remember; I've always loved making videos," Shubert said, "It's just made even better when a large amount of people like the videos and give great

positive feedback, then you just want to make more."

That video on its own has 90,000 views, and that's not even the maximum on their YouTube channel.

As Turnt Media took off, Shubert was offered help by now GSU senior Tyler Moody and former GSU student Jeremy Yuill. All three can be seen holding cameras cautiously through drunken crowds and taking selfies with groups of people via GoPro's attached to a "selfie-stick." Moody is the Marketing-Man for the group through their Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts. Yuill is a video editor with Shubert and is also the graphic designer for their business cards and ads.

If you haven't seen one of their videos yet, pull out your phone, search and watch in HD. But how do they actually make these videos happen? Let's go "Behind the Screens" of Turnt Media.

1.) A local event is being held and the guys over at Turnt show up to the venue. Throughout the night shots from all different angles and lengths are taken. Shubert collects the SD cards from Yuill and Moody and then the editing process begins.

2.) Hundreds of clips are collected. The boys sort through them, finding the

best and discarding the worst, and then a song is chosen. This is where the love comes in. They choose and agree on a song that enhances the clips by flowing with all of the movements going on in the video, whatever song works is the song that the video will be designed to.

3.) The editing process begins. Clips are enhanced, cropped, merged and made beautiful (*Cue Technologic by Daft Punk*). This is the most time consuming part of the process, but also the most rewarding.

4.) After the video has been through the minds of the Turnt Media boys, the video can finally make its way to its final destination: The Internet. Everything is on their YouTube channel and from there it's posted and shared on Facebook, Twitter, etc.

The boys of Turnt Media do a great thing for people here on campus. They put in many hours of hard work to make these videos. Not only do they give students and the community intense videos to watch, but they also improve the business of local bars. Whenever and where ever people see the words along the lines of "Turnt Media will be filming," you can expect to see a large crowd of people there.



BOBBY SHUBERT

"Videography has always been a passion of mine. I love portraying an event through a video, so it feels like you were there."



JEREMY YUILL

"I can't describe it or summarize it, but I want to show the world what it looks like through my eyes."



TYLER MOODY

"I love all the people I get to meet and have made tons of new friends through Turnt Media. It's pretty cool to be able to go to different places and people know who you are."

PHOTO COURTESY OF TURNT MEDIA



For more information and to see Turnt Media's videos yourself, check out their pages:

YouTube: www.youtube.com/user/bobbythe1

Search "Turnt Media" on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Vimeo

Want them for an event? Contact them here: turntmedia@gmail.com

THE BUZZ LIST

MATT SOWELL
Features editor



The **Puppy Bowl** is on Sunday. That's honestly the most important thing happening right now. It starts at 3 p.m. on Animal Planet, it's worth it I promise.

Katy Perry, Taylor Swift hater and wannabe Supreme, is performing at Sunday's Super Bowl. Personally I don't want to see her peacock or cupcake boobs. I'm still bitter over the disappointing Dark Horse video. Can we just have Queen Bey again?

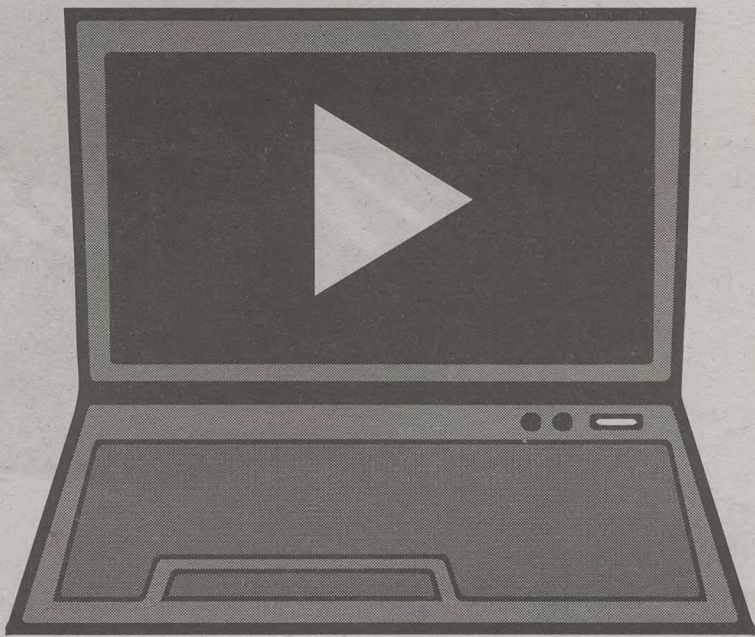
Lindsay Lohan, role model of the decade, is scrambling to finish her community service by Wednesday. She's known about the deadline for a while, and if she doesn't meet it she'll end up in jail. Maybe, deep within her soul, a young Cady Heron is motivating her to be a better person... or not.

Jasmine Tridevil, three boobed Instagram sensation from sometime last semester, got a serious DUI last week. It's okay Jasmine, I would binge drink too if Angela Basset stole my surgically modified look and wore it better.

Emma Watson, actual role model of the decade, is playing Belle in a live action version of Disney's hit movie Beauty and the Beast. It's going to be magical, super duper magical.

Phillip Phillips, past American Idol winner, is angry at his producers saying that they are ruining his career. It's pretty clear he's not as famous as every other American Idol winner. Truth is we never hear from most of those guys again. Name six past winners, and two songs by them that you know. Exactly.

AMAZON PRIME VS HULU PLUS



BY RASHIDA OTUNBA
The George-Anne Staff

While Netflix is definitely the BMOC of internet streaming services, Prime and Hulu Plus also claim to have a great deal to offer in the realm of TV streaming. However, if you, like me are a broke college student then you can only afford to choose one.

Amazon Prime

Price: one easy payment of \$39 for college students, \$79 for non-students

Pros:

Classic HBO hit shows like "The Wire," "Six Feet Under" and "The Sopranos"

Surprisingly good originals "Mozart in the Jungle" and "Transparent"

Classic 90s cartoons featuring the majority of your childhood favorites

Gives users free two-day shipping on select items

Access to a limited range of novels (Warning: not to be confused with their separate service, Kindle Unlimited)

Cons:

Movie section leaves a bit to be desired, though they are definitely improving their selections monthly

Must download software in order to stream on PC, adding an extra ten minutes to movie night with friends if you don't already have the software installed

Does not guarantee two-day shipping on all items

Verdict:

Do it. Before HBO was

added, I was more than a bit skeptical, but now that they are included, it's everything I ever hoped for. Even the original shows are fantastic, and it's a one time payment. Plus you have the additional bonus of having the ability to rent textbooks last minute and still have them delivered on time for your class.

Hulu PLUS

Pros:

Offers the most recent episodes of TV shows you may have missed while you were up late studying

Exclusively streams "Sailor Moon Crystal," the long awaited reboot of the 90s anime "Sailor Moon"

A wide range of foreign TV dramas

Cons:

You still have to watch commercials even if you pay. Albeit, they are shorter in length, but still commercials nonetheless

AdBlock does not work. Yes, the big bosses at Hulu are totally onto us, the much-loved Google Chrome AdBlock extension is no match for the power of Hulu. And don't even try to skip around it knows you.

Verdict:

It's honestly not worth it. We are in the digital age. Google that show you missed and watch it somewhere else (not that I have ever done this *cough cough*). Unless you are a law-abiding citizen who doesn't mind watching five different commercial blocks on your laptop, then you won't enjoy this at all.

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STATESBORO, GEORGIA

HAWTHORNE

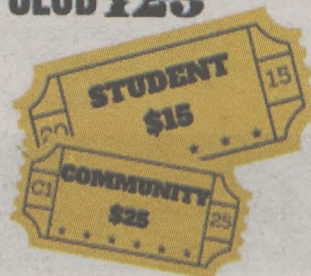
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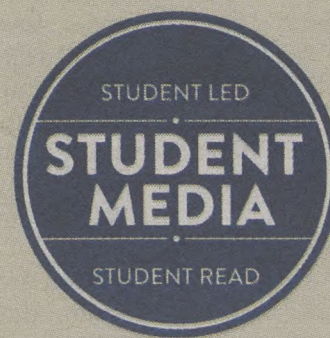
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A SONG OF SCIENCE AND ART PART 1: IT BEGINS BY: TOMMY MARTIN



Sugar Babies WHAT'S YOUR WORTH?



ALIA LEWIS

Lewis is a sophomore journalism major from Atlanta, Ga.

Head down, face pouted, you leave the Rosenwald building disappointed. Even after financial aid and scholarships, you're still short a couple hundred dollars. You search for a job and then for your cell phone to call your parents in need of support. They pay the remainder of your tuition, but you still must decide how you're going to survive for the rest of the year. You go home and google "student loan," "help with rent," "college support" which inevitably commences your search for a sugar daddy.

Seeking Arrangement, the largest online sugar daddy dating site, admits almost 4 million people looking to either provide financial support or receive support. According to their website, "Sugar babies enjoy a life of luxury by being pampered with fine dinners, exotic trips and allowances. In turn, Sugar Daddies or Mommas find beautiful members to accompany them

at all times." The website prides itself on members "getting what they want, when they want." Enticed by the numerous benefits babies receive including mentorship, 42 percent of members are college students. Surprisingly, some may be in your very same classroom. According to Angela Bermudo, public relations manager for Seeking Arrangement, Georgia Southern ranks 43 out of the 50 fastest growing sugar schools in the US. In 2014 alone, eagle membership increased by 29.36 percent.

Upon first hearing about the site, I was shocked; first shocked that the website even existed, and second shocked at the rising number of college students who were signing up. I imagined it as a fishing pond for older guys to prey on and manipulate younger, already naive college students. However, as I continued in my research, the site's sheer glamour might have softened even the hardest of hearts. First of all I realize that not every guy on the website is asking for sex. As with one case, although rare, one guy only desired that his sugar baby "do well in school." According to The New York Times, one sugar daddy sent his baby "nearly \$500 a month." Though they never met, never even talked on the phone, he wrote her long letters by hand encouraging her studies and advising her on finances. He never once mentioned sex.

My only concern is toward the girls who expect all guys to be this generous without receiving

any physical benefits. Despite the previous case, many men do in fact want sex as part of the relationship. Melanie Berlit, a fellow sugar baby, describes how one guy "had a fetish for submissives and wanted to pay [her] \$4,500 a month to help him realize his fantasies." Think about it. If a guy is spending thousands of dollars on you, buying lavish gifts, taking you on exotic trips, many will more than likely want more than "your presence" in return. And that's the problem: as more and more money becomes involved, many women start compromising their morals because they feel as though they are obligated to provide the guy with more than a nice smile. Brandon Wade, founder of Seeking Arrangement told CNN, "Most men here are eventually hoping to have sex. Isn't that the point of dating?" To Mr. Wade, I say this: if a guy is expecting and hoping to have sex simply because he lavishes her with gifts, I beg the question how much is she worth? A Fendi bag? Louis Vitton? \$3,000 a month? This site provides a gateway for women to sell their company, morals and possibly their body for a few thousands of dollars.

I remember as a kid playing a game with my dad, where he would ask me "How much am I worth?" He tried to teach me that no amount of money or object should make me think less of myself or pressure me to do something I didn't want to do. He'd ask "Are you worth a dollar?" and I would quickly

shake my head in an eager childlike fashion. "Would you do anything for a candy bar?" insinuating that if a stranger ever tried to allure me with candy or money, I wouldn't go. Finally he'd ask, "Well how much are you worth?" "I'm priceless!" I would eagerly proclaim. "There's no price that

could ever buy me!" "Not even a million dollars?" he would ask. I'd shake my head. "Not even a billion?" Nope not even that, I'd say. There's no amount of money that can make me do something I don't want to do, date someone I don't want to date. So I ask you GSU, how much are you worth?

Sugar Daddy Application

Name: _____

Age: _____ Height: _____

Eye Color: _____ Hair Color: _____

Hairstyle: comb over cul-de-sac oddly parted toupee

Yearly Annual Income: _____

Do you have a private jet? _____

Which sports car will we be riding in? _____

Hobbies: _____

A copy of your bank statement showing available balance is required. Current proof of employment can be substituted on a need to know basis. (For the purpose of this application committing white collar crimes is seen as gainful employment)

By signing here I understand that I am providing financial assistance in exchange for companionship, whatever form it may come in.

Signature _____

ROSCOE BYRD: UAB transfer comes to fill in the gaps on offense



PHOTO COURTESY OF gseagles.com
Byrd started 20 games for UAB the past two seasons. He is expected to help the team with experience.

BY LAYNE SALIBA
The George-Anne staff

If you follow college football, you've most likely already heard the news that the University of Alabama System Board of Trustees decided to shut down the football program at the University of Alabama at Birmingham on Dec. 2.

Due to a lack of funds, the UAB football program was terminated at the finish of the 2014-2015 season, a decision that hasn't been made in the Football Bowl Subdivision since 1995. This came as a shock to many people and created a sort of numbness among the UAB players, coaches, students and community.

Following the news, videos taken by players during the announcement began to surface. These videos showed the players' raw emotions and the fans' uncensored thoughts towards the Board of Trustees. Although this meeting made the decision official,

players already knew it was coming. Unfortunately, they had to hear it first on Twitter. Anger continued to rise with every word that came from the mouth of the university's president. But, each word fell short of being a good explanation.

One of the biggest questions that arose after the program was shut down was what the players would do. Do they continue on scholarship at UAB without football? Or would they follow their dream at a new college in hopes of playing football at the next level?

The NCAA made a move that made that question a little easier for the UAB football players to answer. They permitted the athletes to transfer to other schools and forego the mandatory one year of transfer ineligibility by allowing the players to begin play immediately if they choose to do so. These players were even able to have contact with schools during the dead-period that

usually takes place during December and January.

After this news, Georgia Southern took a look at the players that UAB had to offer. One of the UAB players that received an offer from Georgia Southern is offensive lineman Roscoe Byrd. Luckily for the Eagles, Byrd decided to accept that offer and make a new home in Statesboro. He will be a much needed addition to the offensive line for the upcoming season.

"It just felt extremely comfortable here. When I came here on a visit, it just was better than I had expected. I had originally planned to just come here for a day," Byrd said. "But when I got here and got the feel for the place, I actually decided to stay another night to see some more stuff about the university."

It was not an easy decision for Byrd, however. He received many offers which included South Alabama where his former offensive coordinator was hired and many of his former teammates decided to commit. He also received offers from Troy, Middle Tennessee State and Western Kentucky.

"I couldn't think straight. You build a bond with these guys over three seasons, and the stuff that we had to go through to finally start seeing things pay off and start to get stuff turned around, and then it's like you hit a brick wall. I just can't really put it into words. It's just crazy," Byrd said.

The 6-foot-3, 319-pound senior from Albany, Ga. spent his first season at UAB playing on the defensive line. After seeing action in 10 games at defensive tackle that season, Byrd was moved to the offensive front during the 2013 spring practice.

The coaches were apparently impressed with the change because he became a starter at offensive guard for the first eight games of the 2013 season before a leg injury forced

him to sit out for the remaining four games. Following the injury, Byrd came back at full strength and played all 12 games of the 2014 season.

"I want to play football. That was one of the reasons I went to UAB. If I wanted to be a regular student, I could have done that at Albany State or Darton College. But I went to UAB not only to get a degree but to play football. So I knew that after all this happened I had to go find another place to play football," Byrd said.

Now, Byrd has fallen into the hands of Alex Atkins, Georgia Southern's offensive line coach, and will have one year of eligibility remaining. There is no denying that Georgia Southern must have a solid offensive front in order to execute their run-based offense successfully. Unfortunately, a lot of that talent is graduating. So, the addition of Roscoe Byrd is much needed and could not have come at a better time for the Eagles.

"I think that this is how a football program is supposed to be. You got your on-campus stadium, great fan base, students love being here, coach loves being here, everybody supports it and it's in a great city," Byrd said.

“
EVERYBODY LIVES
AND BREATHES
GEORGIA SOUTHERN
FOOTBALL. YOU
DON'T SEE GEORGIA
BULLDOGS, YOU
DON'T SEE GEORGIA
TECH. EVERYTHING
AROUND HERE IS
GEORGIA SOUTHERN
AND THAT'S HOW
COLLEGE FOOTBALL
IS SUPPOSED TO BE,”

ROSCOE BYRD

Upcoming senior offensive lineman

FRESHMAN PHENOM

lights up the court

BY LAYNE SALIBA
The George-Anne staff

Basketball is in his blood. It has been running through his family's veins for decades and it can't be stopped. It all came natural to Georgia Southern freshman guard Jake Allsmiller. No one had to tell him to pick up a basketball. No one had to tell him to start playing. No one had to tell him what to do at all. He just knew.

He will always be remembered in the city of Nashville. As a matter of fact, he will always be remembered in the state of Tennessee.

While at Christ Presbyterian Academy, Allsmiller displayed his prominence in a number of ways. He helped lead his team to two state championships, averaged 15 points per game, was a three time All-State selection and finished his career by posting 457 career three-pointers, setting a new school record and ranking third in Tennessee history.

Not a lot of kids have done what he has, but Allsmiller found a way to keep impressing scouts even when it seemed like his game had reached its summit. His dream has always been to play basketball. So when he received an offer during his sophomore year from his father's alma mater, Vanderbilt, he couldn't have been happier. And with LSU and Miami University thrown into the mix, the decision became even more difficult.

But as Allsmiller was going into his senior year of high school, he began to see offers taken off the table. He injured his leg that summer, so schools started losing faith in him. They didn't think he would be able to pull through and continue to do what he had done in the past. Not all schools felt this way, however. One school remained.

Georgia Southern stuck with Jake and believed he would recover from his injury and continue to play at the caliber he had been before the injury. Jake says that's what drew him to Georgia Southern. He respected the loyalty the Eagles showed him as he was battling an injury.

"Georgia Southern just stuck in there and really just showed confidence in me and kept on watching me my entire

senior year until I committed. So, it's just a blessing to be here," Allsmiller said.

And Jake has without a doubt returned the favor. He has been a vital component in the Eagle's offense by spreading the court and forcing teams to respect his shot. That is what he is known as: a shooter. He poses a threat around the perimeter and has seen significant time that has allowed him to become a player that opponents have to pay attention to.

The experience he has gotten is important for this young team's future as five significant players will be graduating at the end of this season.

"I wasn't planning on having this many minutes as a freshman," Allsmiller said. "When I get to be on the court with the guys and kinda get the feel for the game already, it kinda helps looking forward. Like how I'm gonna adjust in the future."

The way the season has gone so far, the Eagles may be able to reach Allsmiller's goal of winning as many championships as possible, especially in the first season of Sun Belt action. But nothing would be more exciting for him than to be able to break some of the school records already in place.

In order for him to do that, however, he knows he has to have an open

mind and be receptive to all the lessons and advice that the veterans on the team have to offer.

"If we didn't have the senior's leadership, then we wouldn't be nearly as successful. They made it easier and pushed us in offseason workouts and told us what to expect," Allsmiller said. "It's all about following in their footsteps. And then everything is kind of laid out in front of us."

Allsmiller has plenty of time left at Georgia Southern and he will only improve as the years pass by. There is no doubt that he can accomplish great things at Georgia Southern and will make his mark on the basketball program. But even after all the high school accomplishments, and all of the accomplishments he is sure to achieve in college, Allsmiller won't be done.

"I want to play basketball as long as I possibly can. Whether that takes me overseas or to the NBA, only the future knows," Allsmiller said. "I'd love to play for the Golden State Warriors. Obviously Steph Curry is a

JAKE ALLSMILLER SEASON STATS

55
POINTS

9
STEALS

15
ASSISTS

30
REBOUNDS

monster to watch, and they love shooting the three-ball. So yeah, I'd fit in."



BRANDON WARNOCK THE GEORGE-ANNE Allsmiller is new this year, but his impact is noticed. He is the third best shooter behind the arc for the Eagles.

WEEKEND RECAP

GEORGIA SOUTHERN VS. TEXAS STATE

Two top Sun Belt defenses were featured in the match-up between Georgia Southern and Texas State on Thursday, but the Eagles were able to outlast the Bobcats in a too-close-for-comfort 45-43 game.

It may not have felt like it at times, but the Eagles never trailed in the game.

Redshirt senior guard Jelani Hewitt led the team with 14 points, scoring nine points from beyond the arc. Senior center Trent Wiedeman ended the night with 12 points and six rebounds in his 27 minutes of play.

Freshman guard Mike Hughes only scored seven points, but he made his last shot count. With 1:39 left in the game, Hughes put back up a missed jumper from Hewitt that found its way through the net. This shot proved to be the game-winner for the Eagles as no other baskets were made following Hughes'.

Georgia Southern was held to just 33 percent from the field while the Bobcats were held to 32 percent. Both teams struggled from the three-point line making a combined 6-33, but Georgia Southern did just enough to make it past the Bobcats, going 5-22 from downtown compared to Texas State's 1-11.

GEORGIA SOUTHERN VS. UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT MONROE

The Eagles were able to finish their three-game road trip 2-1, with the last game being the most important.

The Eagles boosted themselves to the No. 1 spot in the Sun Belt once again by beating a tough ULM team 57-53 on Saturday.

Redshirt senior forward Eric Ferguson led the team with 19 points and eight rebounds. After a sluggish start, Hewitt followed closely behind him with 15 points, seven rebounds and three assists.

The game started off slow for the Eagles, but defense was key. The team may not have been firing shots that you would expect to see from them, but they played solid defense to keep a close game. At the end of the first half, Georgia Southern found themselves ahead 29-27.

In the second half, with just 9:55 left to play, ULM gained momentum by banking back-to-back shots. It seemed like the Warhawks had a chance to come back, but the Eagles took a timeout, regrouped and never looked back as they held the lead for the remainder of the contest.

Georgia Southern tallied seven total steals with Hewitt responsible for two of them. These steals made Hewitt the all-time career steals leader at Georgia Southern. The Eagles also finished the night shooting 42 percent from the field and going 6-10 from the charity stripe.

The future of GS football is recruited

BY HAYDEN BOUDREAUX
The George-Anne staff

There are only two weeks left in the recruiting season and head coach Willie Fritz is out feverishly recruiting new stars to add to the defending Sun Belt Champions.

After this season, fans know we are set for the next few years at the quarterback position, but it never hurts to prepare for the future. Fritz had this view as he recruited Cumming, Ga. native Hampton McConnell, a dual-threat quarterback. McConnell was one of the best assets for West Forsyth High School as he passed for just over 1700 yards and 15 touchdowns, including a 92-yard bomb. His talent with his legs made him the second leading rusher for his team with 483 rushing yards and 13 scores on the ground.

McConnell has a 6'3" 197-pound frame fit for a Division I quarterback. He

has a good release and has the ability to move around in the pocket. His 4.53 speed helped him evade defenders at the high school level, and it will be interesting to see him adapt to the college speed.

With Ellison and Upshaw having two years of eligibility remaining, it would not be surprising to see the upcoming freshman red-shirted to learn behind two great dual-threat quarterbacks. McConnell attracted a lot of interest, including offers from Boston College, App State and Middle Tennessee State. He gave his commitment to play for the Eagles in June before the season kicked off.

Fritz has recruited a ton of talent on defense, especially in the defensive backfield. Jay Bowdry was recruited to join the developing defense to be a force for the future. He played both ways for Thomasville at receiver and safety. His senior year he had 120 receiving yards and two touchdowns

along with duties as a returner.

Bowdry spent the majority of his time on defense, racking up 62 solo tackles and 101 total tackles. He had a knack for finding loose footballs with five fumble recoveries and three interceptions.

Watching his tapes, one thing is apparent on nearly every play: his closing speed. He has great vision into the backfield and can sniff out plays that are slow to develop. Bowdry is a heavy hitter that is not afraid to sacrifice his body to make a play.

There is a lot of potential for him to come in and be a play maker immediately on special teams and possibly work his way into a defensive position as a freshman. He also garnered his share of attention and received offers from Indiana, Duke and App State before he committed to Georgia Southern in mid-December.

Jay Bowdry

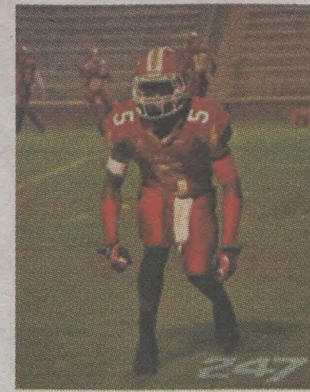


PHOTO COURTESY OF 24/7 sports

Hampton McConnell



PHOTO COURTESY OF McConnell recruiting page

Safety
Height: 6'0"
Weight: 185lbs
40 Yd Dash: 4.50
Bench Press: 250lbs
Squat: 440lbs

Quarterback
Height: 6'3"
Weight: 205lbs
40 Yd Dash: 4.53
Bench Press: 245lbs
Squat: 325lbs

125

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